

NEWSLETTER

Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Democratic Caucus

*Recapping
Women's History Month
March 2006*

Sheryl Lee Ralph Named 'Woman of the Year'

Actress/Civic Leader Sheryl Lee Ralph was honored as the 48th District's 2006 Woman of the Year, as part of the California Assembly's four-week celebration of Women's History Month.

Ms. Ralph was recognized for her compassionate and trailblazing work in AD 48 and surrounding communities as a celebrity spokesperson and community activist for the Minority AIDS Council, a national non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the challenges of HIV/AIDS in minority communities. In honoring Ms. Ralph, Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas said, "Sheryl Lee Ralph was talking about addressing the AIDS epidemic in our community at every television, radio, newspaper, or other public speaking opportunity afforded her for many years. And she started long before most in the community realized or appreciated the severity of the problem – particularly among African American women. Sheryl continues to have an immeasurably positive impact on families throughout South Los Angeles."



Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas escorts actress Sheryl Lee Ralph into the historic Assembly chambers in the State Capitol Building during ceremonies honoring the 2006 Women of the Year.

Debbie Allen Honored for Blazing Trails for Women in Business

The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) presented world renowned producer/director/choreographer/actress/entrepreneur Debbie Allen the "2006 NAWBO Trailblazer Award" last month. NAWBO was the major sponsor of Mr. Ridley-Thomas' AB 1643 in 2004, legislation which he authored to help small businesses and micro-enterprises avoid unfair taxation and overregulation. Ms. Allen, pictured at right with Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas, was honored by NAWBO for her outstanding contributions as a women business leader and for her community service as a men-



tor and role model to young businesswomen in Los Angeles.

Tamiko Nash, Reigning Miss California USA, Saluted in State Capitol

Tamiko Nash (center), the reigning Miss California USA, is honored by Assemblymembers Mark Ridley-Thomas (right) and Mark Leno (left) during Miss Nash's visit to the State Capitol.

Ms. Nash is a Los Angeles native who graduated with a B.S. in Child and Family Development from San Diego State Univer-



sity. Ms. Nash will represent California when she travels to Baltimore, Maryland on April 21 to compete for the coveted title of Miss USA in the nationally televised Miss USA Pageant.

Scores of South L.A. Residents Turn Out for Free Income Tax Preparation

Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas welcomed more than 60 individual tax filers for a free four-hour income tax preparation session on Saturday, April 1. The 2005 tax preparation assistance was sponsored by Broad Spectrum Community Development Corporation, SEIU Local 434B - whose facility hosted the event, Greater Los Angeles Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign Partnership and the County of Los Angeles.

All Smiles -- 48th District taxpayers join Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas for Free Tax Prep Day.



Ridley-Thomas' 2006 Legislative Program Seeks Affordable Home Loans, School Health Centers and Tougher Regulations for Pet Stores

Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas continues to advance an aggressive legislative program for 2006. This article is the second in our two-part series outlining Mr. Ridley-Thomas' proposals to positively impact public safety and health, economic development, consumer protection, housing affordability, and a range of other quality of life issues. Last month's newsletter detailed the Assemblymember's legislation addressing issues from animal protection, to cancer prevention and treatment, to voting rights for all citizens.

"We are working very hard during this Assembly session to pass important measures to improve access to health care for 6.3 million students in California, close tax loopholes used by multi-state corporations doing business in California, and cause the federal government to properly recognize California's high cost of living when setting federal home loan lending limits," Mr. Ridley-Thomas said.

The balance of Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas' 2006 legislation includes:

AJR 47 – Housing Affordability Resolution

Urges the federal government to recognize specified cities in California as high cost areas, and adjust the conforming loan limits such that consumers will realize lower cost loans in these areas. The California Association of Mortgage Brokers sponsors AJR 47.

AB 1388 – CA Teleconnect Fund Loan Repayment Program

Finances local matching grants for telecommunications access, including telemedicine programs, in rural and low-income communities upon repayment over a 15-year period of a \$150 million loan from the California Teleconnect Fund to the state general fund. AB 1388 is sponsored by the California Technology Policy Group.

AB 2547 – Low Equity Brownfield Development Credit

Creates a tax incentive to secure private investment for the purpose of redeveloping underutilized, contaminated, or abandoned properties in blighted areas. AB 2547 is sponsored by the Center for Creative Land Recycling.

AB 2554 – EMT Anti-Double Discipline Act of 2006

Allows the agency or fire department that supervises Emergency Medical Technicians to discipline their own personnel and establishes due process procedures defined by statute and case law, thereby avoiding the existing system that permits disciplinary action to be taken by multiple agencies. The California

Professional Firefighters Association sponsors AB 2554.

AB 2827 – Membership Retail Grocers Equity Act of 2006

This measure is intended to enhance competition and tax equity among grocers.

AB 2828 – Tax Expenditure Accountability Act of 2006

Revises the scope and content of tax expenditure reports prepared by the Department of Finance (DOF) with assistance from the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) and the State Board of Equalization (BOE). AB 2828 is sponsored by State Treasurer Phil Angelides.

AB 2830 – "Nowhere" Tax Loophole Closure

Closes a loophole in the state tax code that allows multi-state corporations to escape paying California taxes as well as state taxation in any state. AB 2830 is sponsored by State Treasurer Phil Angelides.

AB 2861 – Lead Abatement Act of 2006

Strengthens the penalty for failing to remove a lead hazard by making a second violation of an order to remove said hazard a misdemeanor offense, rather than an infraction. LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo sponsors AB 2861.

AB 2862 – Animal Protection Act of 2006

Clarifies specific standards of care, filling gaps in the law, and provides local animal control officers and retail owners with tools for improved compliance and enforcement definitions. The Animal Protection Institute sponsors AB 2862.

AB 2890 – Lending Institutions Employee Accountability Act of 2006

Holds the employees of lending institutions operating under a Department of Corporations license accountable for any unethical behavior. The California Association of Mortgage Brokers sponsors AB 2890.

AB 2936 – Exposition Park Security Officer Re-designation Act of 2006

Authorizes the re-designation of certain security officers assigned to Exposition Park to serve as peace officers. The California Association of Uniformed Safety Employees (CAUSE) sponsors AB 2936.

AB 2959 – Cable Installers Accreditation Certification Act of 2006

Requires video providers to utilize certified installers inside customers' premises and establishes an accreditation program for training and certification by an as yet identified agency. AB 2959 is sponsored by the Communication Workers of America.

AB 2960 – Energy Price Stabilization Act of 2006

This bill is intended to identify appropriate incentives to mitigate price volatility where electricity is being generated from the burning of natural gas and the electricity supply contract provides that any increase in the cost of natural gas can be passed through to the electricity consumer. The Clean Power Campaign sponsors AB 2960.